

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 2-9, of which claims 2 and 8 are independent. Claim 1 and 10 have been cancelled. No claims have been added.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Figures 8, 9, 10A and 10B have now been designated as prior art. Accordingly, the objection with respect to those drawings has been addressed and should now be withdrawn.

With regard to the alleged failure of the drawings to illustrate the features specified in claim 10, Applicants respectfully note that claim 10 has now been cancelled. As such, the object to the drawings on that grounds is now moot.

Applicants have also addressed the informalities cited in the abstract, specification and claim 8, and respectfully now request that any objection based thereon now be withdrawn.

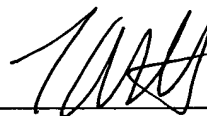
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, and 8 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, the Examiner will appreciate that claims 2 and 8 have each been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the claim from which they depend. Accordingly, claims 2 and 8 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3-7 and 9 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 2 and are therefore patentable for reasons noted above with respect to claim 2. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing them from the applied art.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early passage to issue is respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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